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SUBJECT: CHINA HAS FAVORABLE VIEW OF IRENA BUT NOT READY TO JOIN

REF: STATE 59969

1. (SBU) On June 30, China's National Energy Administration (NEA) responded via faxed letter to points conveyed in REFTEL regarding China's view towards joining the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

2. (SBU) BEGIN TEXT OF INFORMAL TRANSLATION:

Dear Mr. Brent Christensen
ESTH Counselor
June 29, 2009

Following receipt of your letter on June 18, NEA conducted a study of the issues surrounding IRENA and the questions you posed in your letter. We would like to share with you our views:

Whether China will join IRENA
As a special organization, the establishment of IRENA will expand the impact of renewable energy globally, enhance the exchange of information and technology, and promote a favorable international environment for the development of renewable energy policy. Currently a number of international energy organizations are setting up renewable energy related functions, but it remains unclear how these efforts will be coordinated to ensure that all play a positive role. Therefore, China believes it is too early to sign the Statute and has no plan to join IRENA at this time.

The location selection of IRENA's headquarter
The development of renewable energy will rely on global cooperation and joint action, therefore geographic location, transportation conditions, and other factors should be taken into account when selecting IRENA's headquarters. Initially, the United Arab Emirates has proposed to locate the headquarters in Abu Dhabi. We think that Abu Dhabi is a city that meets the relevant requirements and should be included for priority consideration.

The selection of IRENA's Director-General
Considering that one of IRENA's key goals is to promote renewable energy worldwide, particularly in developing countries, we think it is most proper to elect IRENA's Director General from a developing country. This will also attract more developing countries to

participate in IRENA-related activities.

IRENA's mission, goals and key tasks

IRENA's mission and goal should be to promote effective development and utilization of renewable energy globally; provide a platform to exchange information on renewable energy technology and policies for countries around the world; and to promote the advancement of renewable energy technology and cultivate talent. The key tasks we suggest should include:

-- To help and promote the establishment of renewable energy technology and supporting infrastructure in each country;

-- To establish an equal and fair global mechanism for renewable energy technology transfer and trade;

-- To jointly study and research renewable applications of power grid operations, project construction, operation management, product testing and other public technology.

Thank you very much for your letter. We hope we will continue our communications on energy issues of mutual interest.

Best Regards,

Mr. WU Guihui / Director General
Department of International Cooperation
National Energy Administration
June 29, 2009

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END TEXT OF LETTER

13. (SBU) COMMENT: Although NEA was formally established in March 2008, it is still experiencing organizational growing pains as it consolidates energy policymaking authority from other Chinese government organizations. Moreover, China has yet to pass its Renewable Energy Law, which will more clearly define how China will engage internationally on this topic. China may be willing to revisit its decision regarding IRENA once it passes a series of energy laws currently being debated. END COMMENT.

GOLDBERG